

NA25menC

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3 -----x

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, New York, N.Y.

5 v. 23 Cr. 490 (SHS)

6 ROBERT MENENDEZ,
7 NADINE MENENDEZ,
Wael Hana,
JOSE URIBE,
FRED DAIBES,

8 Defendants.
9 -----x

10 October 18, 2023
11 2:00 p.m.

12 Before:

13 HON. SIDNEY H. STEIN,

14 U.S. District Judge

17 APPEARANCES

18 DAMIAN WILLIAMS

19 United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

20 BY: PAUL M. MONTELEONI

ELI J. MARK

DANIEL C. RICHENTHAL

Assistant United States Attorneys

22 WINSTON & STRAWN, LLP

23 Attorneys for Defendant Robert Menendez

BY: DAVID A. KOLANSKY

24 (Appearances continued next page)

NA25menC

1 APPEARANCES

2 SCHERTLER, ONORATO, MEAD & SEARS, LLP
3 Attorneys for Defendant Nadine Menendez
BY: DANNY C. ONORATO4 GIBBONS, P.C.
5 Attorneys for Defendant Wael Hana
BY: LAWRENCE S. LUSTBERG
6 ANNE M. COLLART
RICARDO SOLANO, JR.7 KASOWITZ, BENSON, TORRES, LLP
8 Attorneys for Defendant Jose Uribe
BY: MARC E. KASOWITZ
DANIEL FETTERMAN
FRIA R. KERMANI10 PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON, LLP
11 Attorneys for Defendant Fred Daibes
BY: ROBERTO FINZI
-and-
12 ARLEO & DONOHUE, LLC
BY: KAMRON SHARIF13 ALSO PRESENT: Tracee Mergen, Special Agent (FBI)
14 Ryan Larkin, Special Agent (FBI)

NA25menC

1 (Case called)

2 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Counsel, please state your names
3 for the record.

4 MR. MONTELEONI: Good morning, Paul Monteleoni for the
5 government. With me at counsel table are my colleagues, Eli
6 Mark and Daniel Richenthal, as well as special agents Tracee
7 Mergen and Ryan Larkin, from the FBI.

8 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

9 MR. KOLANSKY: Good afternoon, your Honor. David
10 Kolansky from Winston & Stewin on behalf of Senator Menendez.

11 THE COURT: Good afternoon. You asked that Senator
12 Menendez be excused, correct?

13 MR. KOLANSKY: Correct, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: I've granted that, and we have another
15 date for his arraignment.

16 MR. KOLANSKY: Correct. Monday, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

18 MR. ONORATO: Good afternoon, your Honor. Danny
19 Onorato on behalf of Nadine Menendez, who is with me at
20 counsel's table.

21 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

22 MR. LUSTBERG: Good afternoon, your Honor. Lawrence
23 S. Lustberg from Gibbons, P.C., on behalf of defendant Wael
24 Hana. Mr. Hana is here. With me are my colleagues Anne
25 Collart and Ricardo Solano.

NA25menC

1 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

2 MR. KASOWITZ: Good afternoon, Marc Kasowitz,
3 Kasowitz, Benson & Torres for Mr. Uribe, and I have with me Dan
4 Fetterman.

5 MR. FETTERMAN: Good afternoon, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

7 Mr. -- I'm sorry. Let's finish.

8 MR. FINZI: Good afternoon, your Honor. Roberto Finzi
9 for Fred Dabies, who is next to me here in court. Along with
10 me are Richard Carlo and Kamron Sharif.

11 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Please be seated.

12 Mr. Kasowitz, your recently, and your firm entered a
13 notice of appearance here, correct, for Mr. Uribe?

14 MR. KASOWITZ: That's correct, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Please make sure that you make contact
16 with the classified information security person and file -- get
17 your application in for security clearance. That's the
18 classified information security officer. The government can
19 give you the name and the contact information. Try to get your
20 application or applications in this week if you can.

21 MR. KASOWITZ: We will do that, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. Because everybody else already
23 has their applications in.

24 All right. Government, tell me what the status of
25 discovery is here. Let me tell you what my notes say: That

NA25menC

1 the last time we met, you were waiting for the entry of a
2 protective order. I entered that protective order on October
3 6.

4 You indicated that you then were going to produce
5 documents that were intended to be among the highest priority
6 documents on a searchable base, and then the next tranche was
7 going to be the bulk of the documents that were obtained
8 pursuant to grand jury subpoenas. It looks like that was
9 pending a QC, which I take is a quality control review, so
10 presumably that already is on its way. That's what my notes
11 indicate.

12 Talk to me as to what is actually happening.

13 MR. MONTELEONI: Yes, your Honor.

14 We have been working diligently to produce discovery
15 on the schedule set by the Court, and consistent with our
16 discussion at the last conference to prioritize the most
17 significant material first. Our productions so far cover more
18 than 150,000 pages of documents, though that's a significant
19 undercount, because it includes materials from 27 different
20 electronic devices and accounts that did not lend themselves to
21 full pagination.

22 So the first production that we talked about last
23 time, we made that on October 6, the date the protective order
24 was entered. That was about 77,000 pages of documents. The
25 next week we produced responsive materials from two electronic

NA25menC

1 devices. That was on October 12. Then this week we produced
2 responsive materials from 25 different accounts and devices,
3 and that includes materials from devices and accounts that were
4 used by four of the defendants.

5 This is a part of our rolling production of responsive
6 materials that we've identified pursuant to the search warrants
7 in this case. It's not all of the responsive material. Our
8 review, as we discussed last time, continues, but consistent
9 with the Court's directive to prioritize, we've made a very
10 substantial production this week, including a number of
11 communications between the defendants and between
12 co-conspirators, material that we consider very significant to
13 the trial of this action. It's not everything. It's not even
14 everything significant. We think that it's going to
15 tremendously assist counsel in the defense of this action.

16 THE COURT: Now, do I understand, because you
17 originally told me you had approximately 50 electronic devices,
18 are you saying that you've made the production of 29 of those
19 50 already?

20 MR. MONTELEONI: No. So we've made the production of
21 responsive sets from two of the devices where the review is
22 complete. That was last week on October 12. Then the next 25
23 devices are partial identifications of responsiveness material
24 for devices where the review for those devices continues.

25 So we collected some of the material that we had

NA25menC

1 already identified as among the responsive material. However,
2 we're continuing to review even those devices for additional
3 responsive material. However -- as I said, I do believe that
4 yesterday's production of this material was highly significant.

5 We've also produced to the defendants their own
6 electronically stored information, with one or two exceptions,
7 which we will, you know, get out to the defendants shortly.
8 The large production that we discussed, that you referenced, we
9 submitted that to our vendor following the quality control
10 final checks that I talked about within two days of the
11 conference. The vendor has been processing it, and as I
12 understand it, is in the process of exporting it now. That
13 production is 7.7 million pages, so that export process takes
14 some time.

15 THE COURT: What is exporting?

16 MR. MONTELEONI: So exporting is moving it from the
17 vendor's platform into a form in which we can then copy it to
18 the defense. So that process, we think for a production of
19 this volume, perhaps around half a terabyte, may take a little
20 bit of time, but they are, essentially, almost done with what
21 they need to do. So we'll have that 7.7 million pages out to
22 the defense soon.

23 THE COURT: Well, can you put a timeframe on it?

24 MR. MONTELEONI: Based on the information I have --

25 THE COURT: If you can't, you can't.

NA25menC

1 MR. MONTELEONI: -- that I got from the vendor this
2 morning, I can't; but I expect it's going to be soon. This is
3 in the very late stages. It's just a very large project.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. MONTELEONI: These things take time.

6 And of course that's not everything. We're continuing
7 both our responsiveness review of the devices and also our
8 general productions of discoverable information, and we're
9 targeting December 4th as you've directed.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 I think it sounds like the government is definitely
12 making a good faith effort to keep to the schedule, and it
13 sounds like you're on schedule. Thank you.

14 Let me turn now to the bail application of Mr. Hana.
15 As I understand it, this is document 78, Mr. Lustberg, what
16 you're asking me for, you can correct me if I'm wrong, is the
17 removal of the ankle bracelet, as a condition of pretrial
18 release, from Mr. Hana; and you say that the GPS monitor's been
19 extremely uncomfortable, and even painful for Mr. Hana over the
20 past three weeks since it was applied.

21 Basically, you're requesting that the GPS monitor be
22 removed because, if I understand correctly, he voluntarily
23 returned here from Egypt; his wife and young daughters have
24 applied for a visa to come here; he was residing in Egypt with
25 them, but they've applied for a visa, and you expect them to

NA25menC

1 being coming here; and, thirdly, she's been scheduled for an
2 interview with the U.S. Consulate, so you think it's going to
3 happen soon.

4 Is that basically it? You tell me whatever you like,
5 sir.

6 MR. LUSTBERG: Thank you, your Honor.

7 I think the Court has summarized it well. It's a
8 pretty extraordinary case. Following Mr. Hana's indictment,
9 when he was told about it, he immediately, and when I say
10 immediately, within moments made flight reservations to come
11 back here, even after the government informed us that he would
12 be arrested at Kennedy Airport upon his arrival, he still came,
13 and he did that notwithstanding that there's -- he may not even
14 be extraditable. He's here to face these charges. His family
15 is joining him. He has a residence here. He has an office
16 here.

17 I think the government's concern at the outset was
18 perhaps when discovery began to come in, he would change his
19 attitude about staying here. Discovery, as the Court has
20 just -- per the colloquy that the Court just had with the
21 government, we've begun to receive it. We've begun to go over
22 it with him. He remains resolute about staying here.

23 Let me be clear that he has -- we're not asking for
24 relief from any other conditions of his release. He has
25 surrendered all travel documents. In fact, he found another

NA25menC

1 travel document, which we surrendered --

2 THE COURT: I saw.

3 MR. LUSTBERG: -- to pretrial just today. He's going
4 nowhere. And the Court of course knows the standard. It
5 should -- we believe that the GPS is a condition that's simply
6 not necessary to secure his attendance at trial, or the safety
7 of the community.

8 And it is uncomfortable. I mean, it buzzes all night
9 while he's trying to sleep. It doesn't make it easy for him to
10 be awake and alert when we meet with him. And I have this
11 experience with other clients, I should say. It's just an
12 inconvenient thing that he doesn't need. He has a curfew.
13 He's willing to abide by that curfew. There are alternatives
14 in terms of assuring that he does abide by that curfew, phone
15 calls, or the like, with pretrial services. We're happy to
16 work all that out. But this is just a -- it's an onerous
17 condition that -- for sure it's not as onerous as being in
18 custody, but it's an onerous condition that we just feel,
19 respectfully, is not -- is just simply not necessary under
20 these unique circumstances where he voluntarily returned to
21 this country to face these charges, and has to remain here,
22 because he has no ability to leave. So we would ask for that
23 modest --

24 THE COURT: What do you mean has to remain here
25 because he has no ability --

NA25menC

1 MR. LUSTBERG: Because he's surrendered all his
2 documents -- he has no passport. He has no travel documents.
3 He has no way to leaving the country even if he wanted to. And
4 there are other alternatives to assure that the government
5 knows, or that pretrial knows his whereabouts, that don't
6 require that he have this monitoring 24/7.

7 THE COURT: What are those?

8 MR. LUSTBERG: There could be phone calls. There
9 could be random checks. There's all kinds of mechanisms. And
10 we'd be happy to work with pretrial to work those out.

11 THE COURT: Let me ask you a couple of questions, and
12 then I'll hear from the government.

13 I guess the first is a statement of the scores of
14 people who have come before me, and had the GPS monitors
15 applied, nobody has brought to my attention that it was
16 extremely uncomfortable and even painful. That doesn't mean it
17 wasn't uncomfortable. I'm just saying it's never risen to the
18 level of anyone bringing it to my attention.

19 Is there something unusual here that I should know
20 about?

21 MR. LUSTBERG: No. I mean, I've looked at this
22 device. I've seen it on other people. I actually, your Honor,
23 have had a similar experience to you, that often people don't
24 complain about it, but in most cases the reason for that is
25 they'd rather be on GPS monitoring than sitting in custody in

NA25menC

1 the Metropolitan Detention Center.

2 But here, his detention really was not in the cards,
3 and our view is that it's gratuitous. It's, you know --

4 THE COURT: Unnecessary, it's not the least
5 restrictive?

6 MR. LUSTBERG: Correct.

7 THE COURT: I understand.

8 Last question, you suggest he may not even be
9 extraditable. I haven't read that extradition treaty with
10 Egypt, but at least according to your submission here he hasn't
11 been indicted for an extraditable crime according to this --
12 what you've set forth. Is that true?

13 In other words, were he to go back to Egypt, where his
14 wife and children are, and I take it he's a citizen both of
15 Egypt and of the United States; is that correct?

16 MR. LUSTBERG: Yes, your Honor. Yes.

17 THE COURT: Then at least according to what I have
18 here, he could not be extradited back here; is that correct?

19 MR. LUSTBERG: That's our -- that was the
20 information -- look, I've not done -- to be completely candid
21 with the Court, I've not done a real deep dive.

22 THE COURT: I understand. You haven't parsed the
23 treaty.

24 MR. LUSTBERG: I've literally looked at the list of
25 offenses in the treaty, and the significance of it to us -- and

NA25menC

I would understand the Court's concern, that if he went back there, then it would be difficult to get ahold of him, but the truth is he knew that and came here. And so it goes to the good faith of his journey to the United States in order to face these charges, which he's looking to defending himself on and believes that he will be acquitted of.

THE COURT: What about a possible change of heart as this case proceeds?

MR. LUSTBERG: Well, even if he had a change of heart, it would be awfully difficult for him to leave without travel documents. Travel is limited, and his -- and he's posted property. Presumably by then his family will be here as well, and so there are many other protections that are -- that are in place to prevent that -- to prevent his flight.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Let me hear from the government.

MR. RICHENTHAL: Good afternoon, your Honor.

I want to start --

THE COURT: Tell me who you are, sir, so the record is clear.

MR. RICHENTHAL: Daniel Richenthal.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. RICHENTHAL: I just want to start briefly with the suggestion that the bracelet's uncomfortable. We accept in good faith that may be so, and we would encourage Mr. Lustberg

NA25menC

1 to work with his client and pretrial services to resolve it.

2 Maybe it can be moved to a different location. Maybe it can be
3 moved to a different ankle. I don't know. But that aside,
4 there's nothing in this application that is new or material or
5 warrants this change.

6 And let me just step back for a second and talk about
7 what this case is about as to Mr. Hana. I will note that
8 pretrial services opposes the removal of the GPS, and we do as
9 well, for multiple reasons. So Mr. Hana, according --

10 THE COURT: Well, I don't have that before me.
11 Pretrial services has opposed it in this case specifically?

12 MR. RICHENTHAL: This morning, your Honor, my
13 colleague, Mr. Marks, spoke with the assigned pretrial services
14 officer, and we were informed in sum that they oppose removal
15 of the GPS.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 MR. RICHENTHAL: I'm sure pretrial would be happy to
18 speak to the Court if the Court has questions.

19 But, in sum, the reason we oppose it, and the reason
20 we understand pretrial opposes it is Mr. Hana has,
21 conservatively, in excess of \$25 million in net worth, the
22 overwhelming majority of which is abroad in Egypt and in
23 Uruguay, that includes multiple commercial properties. In each
24 of those two countries at a minimum, he has commercial
25 properties themselves worth millions of dollars, as well as

NA25menC

1 other assets. He is deeply connected, as alleged in the
2 superseding indictment, to the Egyptian Government, and
3 specifically to Egyptian intelligence officers.

4 So while we hope that Mr. Hana does not intend to flee
5 the United States, were he to try to do so, common sense alone
6 would tell you he might well have the assistance of folks to
7 get him a passport, so the mere surrender of his travel
8 documents is not sufficient. The reason we agreed to negotiate
9 a bail package, and that's what this is, is that Mr. Hana
10 returned voluntarily; but that agreement was predicated on two
11 key things, and he's now proposing to remove the most important
12 of the two, while not substituting anything in its place.
13 Those two key things were a substantial bond, \$5 million,
14 secured by both cash and assets. That's been done. And, and
15 this is in our judgment the most important, GPS. And the
16 reason it's most important is what I just said. He has tens of
17 millions of dollars at his disposal outside the United States
18 in two different countries. He's connected to a foreign
19 government in general, and intelligence officers in particular.
20 And in light of the superseding indictment, of which he was not
21 aware at the time he came here, and which adds a new charge,
22 and in light of discovery, of which he was not aware at the
23 time he came here, his incentives, in our judgment, have
24 markedly changed. For all those reasons, the Court should deny
25 this application.

NA25menC

1 The only truly new information of everything I've said
2 is this idea that his family may come here. I don't know if
3 that's true. I don't know if it's not true. What I do know is
4 it hasn't happened yet. So even if the Court were inclined to
5 make some sort of modification on that basis, and we'd urge
6 your Honor not to do so without at least some form of
7 additional conditions, it's premature. At this stage, on this
8 record, the condition should remain in place.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

10 Mr. Lustberg, did you want a quick reply?

11 MR. LUSTBERG: Yes. Very briefly, your Honor. It is
12 an extraordinary thing --

13 THE COURT: What the U.S. Attorney was doing really
14 was going to -- it seems to me, going to the possibility of a
15 change of heart as things go forward.

16 MR. LUSTBERG: Your Honor, fair enough.

17 Your Honor, it's not appropriate for me to testify
18 here about -- with regard to what Mr. Hana would say, but if
19 you were to question him, what he would tell you is having
20 reviewed the superseding indictment, having reviewed all of the
21 discovery in this matter, understanding the breadth of the
22 allegations and the scope of the proofs against him, he is
23 absolutely resolute about staying here. He wishes to face the
24 charges.

25 If the Court wishes to wait on this application, which

NA25menC

I don't think it needs to under the standard set forth in the Bail Reform Act, it could do so until his family actually gets here. Hopefully, that will be sooner rather than later.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. LUSTBERG: But, your Honor, he wants to face these charges. He specifically came to face these charges. He made those arrangements within moments of learning of the indictment.

THE COURT: No, I understand.

MR. LUSTBERG: I think you do understand, your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. LUSTBERG: I won't repeat.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

I'm going to deny the application for removal of the GPS monitor. I have no doubt -- I have no reason whatsoever to doubt Mr. Hana's desire to stay here in the United States and to face the charges against him. I accept that at face value. To what he says, I have no reason to doubt it. Nonetheless, in light of his substantial assets abroad, the fact that his family is abroad, the fact that he's an Egyptian citizen, the fact that, as far as the Court knows, it's not an extraditable offense with which he's been charged, I do find that the GPS monitor is part of the least restrictive conditions, or combination of conditions that will reasonably assure his appearance here in the United States. So I'm going to deny the

NA25menC

1 request for modification of bail.

2 Let's move on to the arraignment of four of the
3 defendants on the superseding indictment, and then we'll
4 proceed to the Curcio hearing. I think Mr. Lustberg
5 foreshadowed that by saying he's not here to testify. So we'll
6 get into that in the Curcio hearing.

7 Let's start then with Mrs. Menendez.

8 Mrs. Menendez, would you rise, please?

9 State your name, please.

10 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Nadine Menendez.

11 THE COURT: Mrs. Menendez, have you received a copy of
12 the superseding indictment S-1 23 CR 490 in this case?

13 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Yes, I have.

14 THE COURT: Have you read it?

15 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Yes, I have.

16 THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your attorney?

17 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Yes, I have.

18 THE COURT: Did he answer the questions, if any, that
19 you had?

20 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Yes.

21 THE COURT: You have the right, Mrs. Menendez, to have
22 me read that superseding indictment in open court. Similarly,
23 you have the right to waive my reading, in which event I won't
24 read it.

25 Do you want me to read it, or do you wish to waive the

NA25menC

1 reading of it?

2 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: I wish to waive the
3 reading of it.

4 THE COURT: All right. I accept the waiver of the
5 right to have the superseding indictment read in open court.

6 How do you plead to the charges against you in that
7 superseding indictment, guilty or not guilty?

8 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Not guilty, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: I accept your plea of not guilty.

10 Thank you, Mrs. Menendez. You may be seated.

11 Mr. Hana.

12 DEFENDANT HANA: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: What is your name, sir?

14 DEFENDANT HANA: Wael Hana.

15 THE COURT: Have you received a copy of the
16 superseding indictment in this case?

17 DEFENDANT HANA: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Did you read it?

19 DEFENDANT HANA: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your attorney?

21 DEFENDANT HANA: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Did he answer any questions you may have
23 had about it?

24 DEFENDANT HANA: Yes, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: You have the right to have me read that

NA25menC

1 superceding indictment, and if you don't want me to, I won't.

2 What's your pleasure?

3 DEFENDANT HANA: I don't want you to. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: All right. I accept that as a knowing and
5 voluntary waiver of the right to have the superseding
6 indictment read in open court.

7 How do you plead to the charges against you in that
8 instrument, sir, guilty or not guilty?

9 DEFENDANT HANA: Not guilty.

10 THE COURT: I accept your plea of not guilty, sir.

11 Thank you. You may be seated.

12 DEFENDANT HANA: Thank you, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Uribe. What is your full name, sir?

14 DEFENDANT URIBE: Jose Uribe.

15 THE COURT: Have you received a copy of the
16 superseding indictment S-1 23 CR 490?

17 DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Did you read it, sir?

19 DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your attorney?

21 DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Did he answer any questions you may have
23 had about it?

24 DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: As you heard when I did the arraignment

NA25menC

1 for the other defendants, you have the right to have me read
2 that superseding indictment in open court, but if you don't
3 want me to, I won't.

4 What would you like?

5 DEFENDANT URIBE: I don't want you to, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right. I accept that as a knowing and
7 voluntary waiver of the right to have the superseding
8 indictment read in open court.

9 Mr. Uribe, how do you now plead to the charges against
10 you in that superseding indictment, guilty or not guilty?

11 DEFENDANT URIBE: Not guilty, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: I accept your guilt -- your not guilty
13 plea, sir. I accept your not guilty plea.

14 Thank you. You may be seated.

15 Now, when I was reading the indictment, I thought you
16 pronounced your name Daibes, but apparently it's --

17 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Daibes.

18 THE COURT: Daibes. All right. Mr. Daibes, what is
19 your full name, sir?

20 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Fred Daibes.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Daibes, have you received a copy of
22 the superceding indictment S-1 23 CR 490?

23 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: Did you read it, sir?

25 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes, I did.

NA25menC

1 THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your attorney?

2 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes, I did.

3 THE COURT: Did he answer any questions you may have
4 had about it?

5 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes, he did.

6 THE COURT: Now, as you've heard, you have the right
7 to have me read that instrument in open court.

8 Do you want me to read it or no?

9 DEFENDANT DAIBES: No, I do not.

10 THE COURT: All right. I accept that as a knowing and
11 voluntary waiver of the right to have the superseding
12 indictment read in open court.

13 How do you plead to the charges against you in the
14 superseding indictment, sir, guilty or not guilty?

15 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Not guilty.

16 THE COURT: I accept your plea of not guilty.

17 Thank you, Mr. Daibes. You may be seated.

18 All right. That is the arraignment on four of the
19 five defendants, and we have a date for the arraignment of
20 Mr. Menendez.

21 Let's now proceed to the Curcio hearing.

22 MR. MONTELEONI: Your Honor, before we proceed to the
23 Curcio --

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 MR. MONTELEONI: -- may I make an application with

NA25menC

1 respect to the Speedy Trial Act?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MR. MONTELEONI: The government moves to exclude the
4 time between now and the trial date of May 6, 2024, under the
5 Speedy Trial Act. We believe that this exclusion will be in
6 the interest of justice, because the exclusion would allow the
7 defendants to review the discovery that we have been producing
8 and that we will be continuing to produce, to allow the
9 defendants to consider and file motions, and the parties to
10 prepare for trial, and potentially to discuss the disposition
11 of the case.

12 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

13 I think we already have a Speedy Trial exclusion on
14 the record until then, but there's no harm in doing it again.

15 Let me hear the position of each of the defendants.

16 Mr. Menendez's attorney.

17 MR. KOLANSKY: Yes, your Honor. We have no objection
18 to the exclusion of time.

19 THE COURT: Mrs. Menendez.

20 MR. ONORATO: Your Honor, again, no objection.

21 THE COURT: Mr. Hana.

22 MR. LUSTBERG: No objection, your Honor. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Uribe.

24 MR. FETTERMAN: No objection, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Daibes.

NA25menC

1 MR. FINZI: No objection, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. With the government having
3 moved for an exclusion of time from today until May 6 from
4 calculation under the Speedy Trial Act, and with each of the
5 defendants' attorneys stating that they have no objection, I
6 hereby exclude time from today until May 6, 2024, from Speedy
7 Trial Act calculation. I make the finding that this
8 continuance serves to ensure the effective assistance of
9 counsel, and to prevent any miscarriage of justice.

10 I also find that the ends of justice served by this
11 continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and of
12 each of the five defendants in a speedy trial. This is an
13 (h) (7) (A), interest of justice, exclusion. The reason is to
14 enable the government to continue its production of documents,
15 and for the parties to attempt to resolve this consensually if
16 they so desire.

17 All right. The exclusion is, again, from today until
18 May 6 of next year.

19 All right. Let you now proceed to the Curcio hearing.

20 MR. FINZI: Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

22 MR. FINZI: I'm sorry. It is my understanding this is
23 a separate proceeding, that the presence of all the other
24 defendants isn't necessary.

25 THE COURT: That is correct. The other defendants do

NA25menC

1 not have to stay.

2 MR. FINZI: Okay. So I don't want to be
3 disrespectful, but I'm going to advise my client that we can go
4 now.

5 THE COURT: Good-bye. Come again, when summoned.

6 (Adjourned)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25